Delay in project on jute diversification

1192. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Jute Industries Research Association, delayed a project on jute diversification by 12 years after incurring expenditure of Rs. 1.34 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the project has been commissioned; and

(d) if so, where?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. No Jute Diversification Project has been delayed by Indian Jute Industries Association (IJIRA) for 12 years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Technology Mission on Cotton

1193. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched the "Technology Mission on Cotton" with Rs. 600 crores, so as to prepare textile industry to face new challenges;

(b) the details of work undertaken and factories being set up under this scheme;

(c) whether Government also propose to set up Technology Missions for jute as well as for "wool" under New National Textile Policy, 2000; and

(d) if so, by when alongwith budgetary allocations made for these Technology Missions during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b)

Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton since February, 2000. The mission comprises four Mini-Missions. Mini Missions-I and II are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, with respective objectives of 'Research', 'Dissemination of technology to farmers'. Mini Missions-III and IV are being implemented by the Ministry of Textiles with respective objectives of 'Development of marketing infrastructure' and 'Modernisation of ginning and pressing factories'. Under Mini Mission-III, development of 51 market yards have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 73.21 crore and under Mini Mission-IV, modernization of 139 ginning and pressing factories have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 158.79 crore.

(c) and (d) Government proposes to set up a Jute Technology Mission under National Textile Policy, 2000. The Mission is proposed to be launched during the current financial year. A provision of Rs. 5 crore has been made in the budget allocation for 2001-02 under Special Jute Development Fund which takes into account the allocation for the proposed Jute Technology Mission.

The National Textile Policy, 2000 does not specifically ask for a Technology Mission on Wool. However, the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce in their 43rd Report have recommended for launching of a Wool Technology Mission. The Working Group on Textiles and Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan have also recommended for the same.

Export Growth during the Current Fiscal Years

1194. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile sector has achieved an export growth during the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the achievement during the first six months; and

(c) what target has been fixed for the full year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the period April-August 2001, textile exports amounted to